

XA-9594
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hideyuki MATSUOKA et al.

Appln. No.: 10/009,826

Group Art Unit: 2811

Filed: March 19, 2002

Examiner: C. Nguyen

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING

METHOD THEREOF

RESPONSE

DEC -8 2003 rechnology center 2800

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22314-1450

Sir:

Responding to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2003, and to the requirement for restriction therein, Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-30 and 32-35) for examination. Regarding the inclusion of Claims 32-35, which are not mentioned in the Office Action, please refer to the Preliminary Amendment dated December 17, 2001, and to the discussion thereof in the Response dated August 14, 2003. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected invention.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that the Preliminary Amendment dated December 17, 2001 has been entered.

An action on the merits of Claims 1-30 and 32-35 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:lat

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December 3, 2003

Mitchell W. Shapir

Reg. No. 31,568